

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Fig. 7 has been corrected as approved in the office action.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under § 102(e) on the basis of Nagata et al. '144. Nagata et al.'s earliest U.S. filing date is December 27, 2000, and applicant's foreign priority date is June 21, 2000, which predates the filing date of Nagata et al. A certified translation of applicant's priority document is enclosed, in order to perfect the priority claim. Accordingly, withdrawal of Nagata et al. as prior art is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 9 stand rejected under § 102(e) on the basis of Senshu '099. Applicant traverses this rejection because Senshu does not disclose (or suggest) a track addressing system of the present invention. In addition, claims 3-6, 8 and 10 stand rejected under § 103 on the basis of Senshu and Horimai et al.

The present invention provides an optical storage medium in which land tracks have a plurality of first ID portions respectively having first track addresses as consecutive numbers, and groove tracks have a plurality of second ID portions having second track addresses as consecutive numbers independently of the consecutive numbers of the first track addresses.

According to the invention claimed in claim 1, the consecutive numbers given to the land track addresses are independent of the consecutive numbers given to the groove track addresses. Accordingly, unlike the prior art reference, it is not necessary to switch

servo conditions and recording/reproducing conditions between the tracks, thereby allowing an improvement in access speed.

According to the invention claimed in claims 3 and 5, the land tracks and the groove tracks are divided into a plurality of groups, and the groups of the land tracks and the groups of the groove tracks are alternately given track numbers. Accordingly, although the number of shifts between the land tracks and the groove tracks is larger, head movement in the radial direction of the disk can be reduced, thereby allowing an improvement in access speed.

Senshu does not disclose the track addressing system of the present invention.

In column 3, lines 56-60 of Senshu, it is disclosed as follows:

With the present disc-shaped information recording medium, the address sections ADR1 associated with the odd tracks TR_{odd} and the address sections ADR2 associated with the even tracks TR_{even} are formed at circumferentially offset positions.

In column 4, lines 39-50 of the Senshu reference, it is disclosed as follows:

[I]t is possible to interchange the grooves and the lands once each turn of the track at the time of cutting for securing track continuity, as shown in FIGS. 7 and 8. The address section ADR1 may be provided adjacent to the groove at the transition area from the land to the groove, while the address section ADR2 may be provided adjacent to the land at the transition area from the groove to the land.

In the odd track TR_{odd} corresponding to transition from the land to the groove, the address information of the address section ADR1 is used, whereas, in the even track

TR_{even} corresponding to transition from the groove to the land, the address information of the address section ADR2 is used.

Thus, it appears that the address sections ADR1 associated with the odd tracks TR_{odd} formed on the lands have addresses "1", "3", "5", and address sections associated with the even tracks TR_{even} formed on the grooves have addresses "2", "4", "6", Regarding the access method of Senshu, if we start from land track "1", we then access adjacent groove track "2", then land track "3", then groove track "4", and so on.

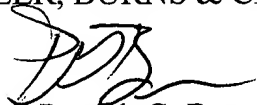
Horimai et al. also discloses land tracks and groove tracks that are not numbered independently of each other (see col. 1, lines 63-65), or numbered consecutively from sector to sector, as the examiner apparently recognizes. For these reasons, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant believes that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicant's attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By



Patrick G. Burns

Registration No. 29,367

January 6, 2004
300 South Wacker Drive
Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: 312.360.0080
Facsimile: 312.360.9315
F:\Data\WP60\3531\65151\Amend B.doc

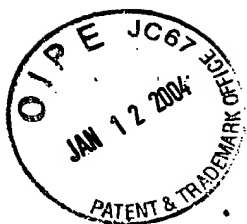


FIG. 7

GROOVE	TRACK NUMBER	LAND	TRACK NUMBER
BAND 0	0	BAND 0	N1
	N1-1		N2-1
BAND 1	N2	BAND 1	N3
	N3-1		N4-1
BAND 2	N4	BAND 2	N5
	N5-1		N6-1
BAND 3	N6	BAND 3	N7
	N7-1		N8-1
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
BAND n	Nn-2	BAND n	Nn-1
	Nn-1-1		Nn